

Tanglefoot Spy Agencies

Spying is an essential part of running a government now as it has been through most of history. The United States employs some 60,000 spies in operations costing the taxpayers an estimated \$4 billion a year.

When all is said and done the huge United States spying machine really does work, reports Andrew Tully, Washington columnist, in a new book, "The Super Spies," that reviews the accomplishments and questions the faults of the nation's assorted espionage systems. These include the National Security Agency (NSA), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the State Department's Bureau Of Intelligence And Research (INR), and the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

They glean information by means ranging from undercover agents to electronic spy ships like the Pueblo and orbiting satellites called SAMOS (Satellite And Missile Observation System) which photograph the earth and eavesdrop on microwave, radio and radar communications.

Their feats, according to Tully, have included predicting the Mideast Six-Day War and the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. But they also have been involved in such blunders as the Bay Of Pigs, the missile crisis, the bombing of the USS Liberty, the capture of the Pueblo and the Green Beret affair.

Their weaknesses are those common to all bureaucracies, largeness, autonomy to an extent that could prove dangerous and inter-agency rivalry, says Tully. These in turn, he charges, breed confusion, duplication of function and at times a tendency for the tail of intelligence to wag the dog of government.

He recommends that Congress look into this maze of systems with an eye to bringing some order, harmony and co-ordination into it. Congress should.